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DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

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U.S. Dept. of Transportation FMCSA-98-3297-36
Docket Management Facility FMCSA-98-3298-29
Room PL-401 FMCSA-98-3299-30
400 Seventh Street, SW
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Gentlemen;

The purpose of this letter is to voice my objections to allowing Mexican Motor Carriers to operate anywhere on U.S. highways. I refer to Docket # FMCSA-98-3297.

I have 4 major objections.

1. SAFETY.

I lived on the border (El Paso, Texas) for 26 years and thus am well aware of the dilapidated, broken down, worn out, unsafe conditions of most of their trucks. They are rolling death traps.

2. DRIVER QUALIFICATION AND MEDICAL HEALTH.

How will a Mexican driver that can't read or write English pick the proper ramp or route exit in time to exit in heavy rush hour traffic in cities such as Houston, San Antonio, or Dallas without causing a major pileup? As for having proof of driver qualification or medical health, anything can be bought in Mexico for the right price.

3. CONTRABAND AND ILLEGALS.

There definitely will be a huge increase in drugs and illegals hidden inside the trailers.

4. AMERICAN JOB LOSSES.

Nafta resulted in the loss of a huge number of American manufacturing jobs, now Docket # FMCSA-98-3297 will result in thousands of American truck drivers losing their jobs.

"At least one satisfactory audit" in a 18 month period will have no impact on these 4 problems, nor will the increased roadside spot checks and random border inspections. Considering the huge number of trucks crossing the border daily, the results will be negligible. Most will get through!

PUT AMERICA FIRST -- not the big money interests, by not allowing the Mexican Carriers on **our** highways!!!

Yours truly,

Leonard A. Schumacher